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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **UNION COUNTY TEENS TO LEARN PROVEN TOBACCO PREVENTION TECHNIQUES AT WINGATE UNIVERSITY**

(Wingate, NC) – Union County teens will participate in a rally and workshops at the first-ever Union County Public Schools Proud to Be Tobacco-Free Youth Retreat on **Saturday, Oct. 2** in the **Cannon Athletic Complex at Wingate University from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Teens will attend training sessions on the dangers of spit tobacco use and second hand smoke and learn how to plan tobacco prevention efforts at school. A key session – on how to make statistics on tobacco and its dangers easy to understand – runs from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

“The youth retreat is a wonderful opportunity to reach young people and explain to them the dangers of tobacco use,” said Rick Croffut, tobacco prevention coordinator with the Union County Schools. “Teens talking to teens is a proven way of successfully getting the message across.”

The Union County Schools teen tobacco use prevention initiative, which is funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund, will provide the training to teen advocates through a partnership with the Question Why? Youth Empowerment Center of Central North Carolina and the Question Why? Youth Empowerment Center of Durham.

The event is free and open to any Union County high school student who wants to learn how to become a teen tobacco use prevention advocate.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

- Forest Hills High School
- Monroe High School
- Parkwood High School
- Piedmont High School
- Sun Valley High School
- Weddington High School

**ABOUT THE NC HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND:**

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF has invested \$55 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$78 million to fund a prescription drug assistance program for seniors. For more information, please visit [www.hwtfc.org](http://www.hwtfc.org).